

Part IV – Alcohol & Drugs

Alcohol and/or drug related traffic collisions are responsible for a large portion of reported traffic collisions each year. The percentage of collisions that involve alcohol or drugs increases as the severity of injuries increases. On the following pages collision statistics are presented which are based on the probable collision cause as determined by the officers who investigate the crashes. Collisions listed by county or driver involvement are not comparable to any statistics published prior to 1988. In previous years, alcohol and drug involvement was based on a question contained in the Uniform Traffic Collision Report for each driver, "Had been drinking or using drugs." Beginning in 1988, alcohol and drug crashes are based on the probable cause filed which lists 74 causes from which the officer must choose the single probable cause of the crash. Eight of the choices concern alcohol or drug usage.

The data presented here is a summary of these eight alcohol or drug related probable causes. This data will not include any crash where the probable cause was something other than alcohol or drugs, even if one or more of the drivers was intoxicated. For example, if a drunk driver was going through an intersection and was broadsided by another driver who ran a stop sign, the probable cause would most likely be recorded as "disregarded sign or signal."

In South Carolina, it is inferred that you are under the influence when your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) reaches a level of 0.10. At this level, you are seven times more likely to have a traffic collision than if your BAC were zero. If your BAC reaches 0.15 percent, your chances of having a traffic collision are 25 times greater. Some of the common effects of alcohol at various BAC levels are as follows:

<u>BAC Level</u>	<u>Common Effects</u>
0.03	Mild alteration of feelings. Level of impairment is not generally too serious.
0.05	Feeling of relaxation, sedation and/or euphoria. Increased difficulty in performing motor skills. Driving ability and judgement impaired.
0.10	Physical and mental impairment affecting perception and performance. Deterioration in motor coordination. Hearing and speech impaired. Uncoordinated behavior. Legally inferred to be under the influence in South Carolina.
0.15	Serious impairment of physical and mental functioning. Irresponsible behavior. Distorted perception and judgement. Difficulty standing, walking and talking.
0.40	Coma results. The person can not be awakened.
0.60	Death from alcohol overdose or accidental choking. Absorption of alcohol continues at same rate while oxidation slows because the high BAC causes anesthetization of the heart and lungs. Death occurs when the respiratory and circulatory systems cease to function.

2000 F.A.R.S. (Fatality Analysis Reporting System)

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, through its FARS program, determines the highest blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level among all drivers or pedestrians involved in each fatal traffic collision in the United States. For crashes with no test results available estimates are computed. For 2000, 643 victims were involved in crashes where the highest BAC was zero; 94 between 0.01 and 0.09; and for 329 at least one driver /pedestrian had a BAC of 0.10 or greater.

**TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WITH A PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING
FACTOR OF DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE (DUI)****

COUNTY	COLLISION TYPE				PERSONS	
	Fatal	Injury	PDO*	Total	Killed	Injured
Abbeville	0	19	6	25	0	27
Aiken	7	61	59	127	8	84
Allendale	1	6	1	8	1	10
Anderson	18	124	61	203	18	182
Bamberg	0	5	3	8	0	6
Barnwell	1	4	7	12	1	10
Beaufort	4	40	49	93	4	70
Berkeley	2	71	49	122	2	111
Calhoun	2	7	9	18	2	12
Charleston	3	118	117	238	4	183
Cherokee	1	34	31	66	1	52
Chester	2	23	17	42	2	40
Chesterfield	0	38	18	56	0	49
Clarendon	1	24	22	47	1	40
Colleton	2	28	12	42	2	41
Darlington	4	76	44	124	5	133
Dillon	2	33	16	51	2	56
Dorchester	2	38	32	72	2	57
Edgefield	0	11	8	19	0	21
Fairfield	0	21	12	33	0	24
Florence	8	85	65	158	10	125
Georgetown	3	22	24	49	3	37
Greenville	7	156	143	306	7	240
Greenwood	1	31	21	53	1	41
Hampton	1	2	12	15	1	3
Horry	4	148	156	308	4	233
Jasper	1	21	19	41	1	38
Kershaw	2	25	34	61	2	38
Lancaster	4	37	37	78	4	47
Laurens	8	45	34	87	8	75
Lee	0	9	10	19	0	17
Lexington	19	105	77	201	19	184
McCormick	0	7	2	9	0	7
Marion	1	25	8	34	1	40
Marlboro	1	15	20	36	1	29
Newberry	2	20	17	39	2	24
Oconee	1	26	22	49	1	37
Orangeburg	3	58	51	112	3	83
Pickens	4	44	41	89	4	67
Richland	6	140	126	272	6	214
Saluda	1	10	11	22	1	16
Spartanburg	10	167	138	315	13	238
Sumter	1	49	58	108	1	66
Union	2	17	18	37	2	28
Williamsburg	0	42	13	55	0	59
York	5	83	87	175	8	123
TOTAL	147	2,170	1,817	4,134	158	3,317

*Property Damage Only

**This chart is not comparable to any published statistics from 2000 and prior years.

AGE AND SEX OF DRIVERS FOR TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WHERE THE PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR WAS DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE (DUI)***

TOTAL COLLISIONS			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<=14	3	0	3
15	8	6	14
16	29	16	45
17	62	21	83
18	109	31	140
19	128	31	159
20	147	33	180
21	172	45	217
22	179	43	222
23	154	47	201
24	136	39	175
25 to 29	575	145	720
30 to 34	531	187	718
35 to 39	539	203	742
40 to 44	529	177	706
45 to 49	391	113	504
50 to 54	288	84	372
55 to 59	163	49	212
60 to 64	105	23	128
65 to 69	57	19	76
70 & Older	52	24	76
UNKNOWN AGE*	1	0	36
UNKNOWN SEX*	-	-	1
TOTALS**	4,358	1,336	5,730

FATAL COLLISIONS			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<=14	0	0	0
15	0	0	0
16	1	0	1
17	4	0	4
18	2	0	2
19	6	1	7
20	8	0	8
21	8	3	11
22	6	0	6
23	5	2	7
24	5	2	7
25 to 29	24	5	29
30 to 34	18	3	21
35 to 39	17	5	22
40 to 44	17	0	17
45 to 49	11	3	14
50 to 54	6	3	9
55 to 59	12	0	12
60 to 64	5	0	5
65 to 69	3	0	3
70 & Older	5	0	5
UNKNOWN AGE*	0	0	0
UNKNOWN SEX*	-	-	0
TOTALS**	163	27	190

INJURY COLLISIONS			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<=14	2	0	2
15	2	5	7
16	15	6	21
17	29	10	39
18	66	15	81
19	66	15	81
20	80	21	101
21	78	32	110
22	93	17	110
23	82	28	110
24	73	24	97
25 to 29	283	82	365
30 to 34	294	97	391
35 to 39	296	99	395
40 to 44	280	92	372
45 to 49	215	52	267
50 to 54	141	34	175
55 to 59	89	29	118
60 to 64	50	20	70
65 to 69	27	14	41
70 & Older	25	11	36
UNKNOWN AGE*	0	0	0
UNKNOWN SEX*	-	-	19
TOTALS**	2,286	703	3,008

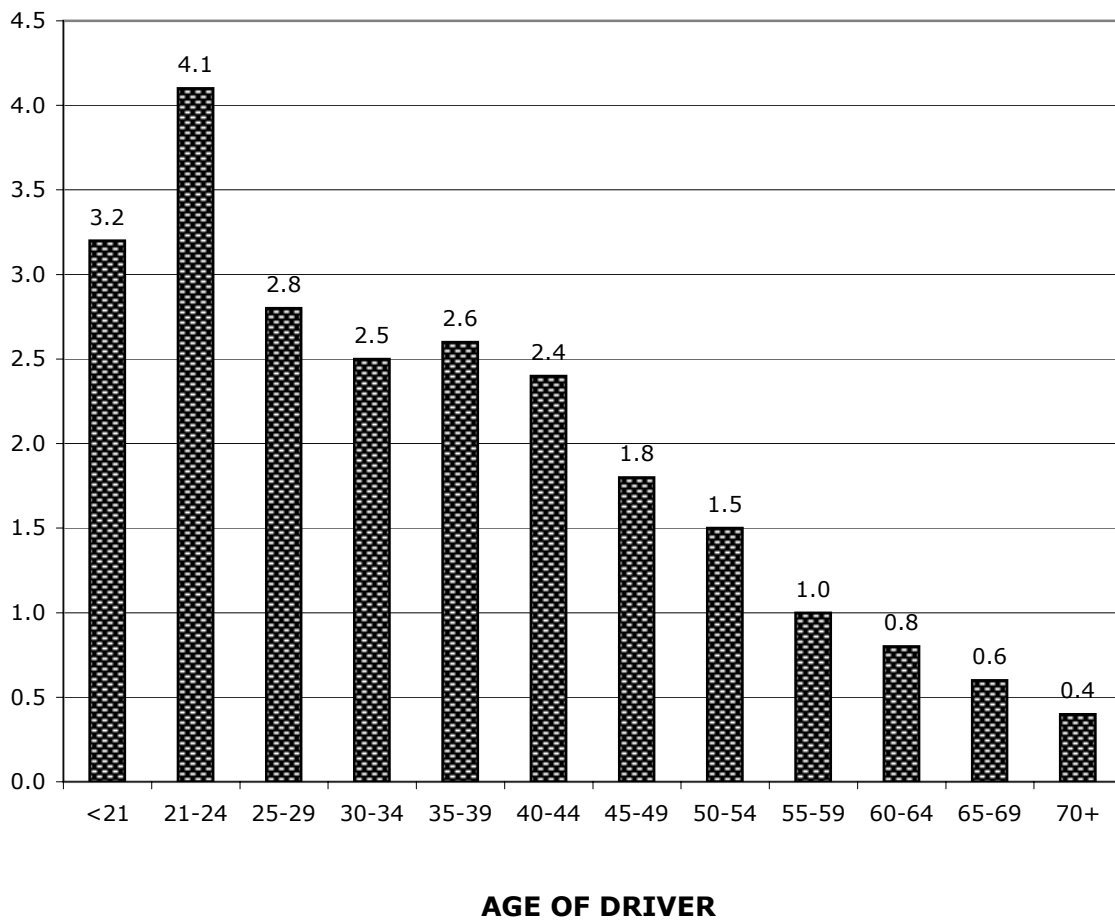
PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY COLLISIONS			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<=14	1	0	1
15	6	1	7
16	13	10	23
17	29	11	40
18	41	16	57
19	56	15	71
20	59	12	71
21	86	10	96
22	80	26	106
23	67	17	84
24	58	13	71
25 to 29	268	58	326
30 to 34	219	87	306
35 to 39	226	99	325
40 to 44	232	85	317
45 to 49	165	58	223
50 to 54	141	47	191
55 to 59	62	20	82
60 to 64	50	3	53
65 to 69	27	5	32
70 & Older	23	13	50
UNKNOWN AGE*	0	0	0
UNKNOWN SEX*	-	-	0
TOTALS**	1,909	606	2,532

*Includes drivers whose age and sex were not recorded on the report, hit and run collisions for which driver information was not available and also includes parked cars with no driver.

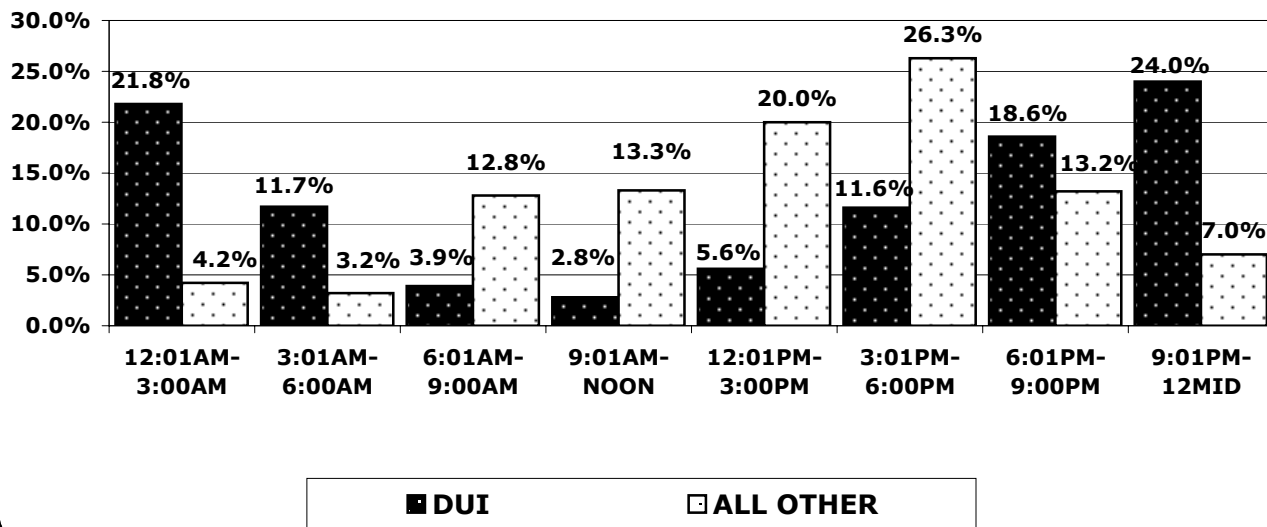
**Adding male, female and unknown sex totals will equal the total for all drivers.

*** These figures only represent drivers of units defined as a motor vehicle.

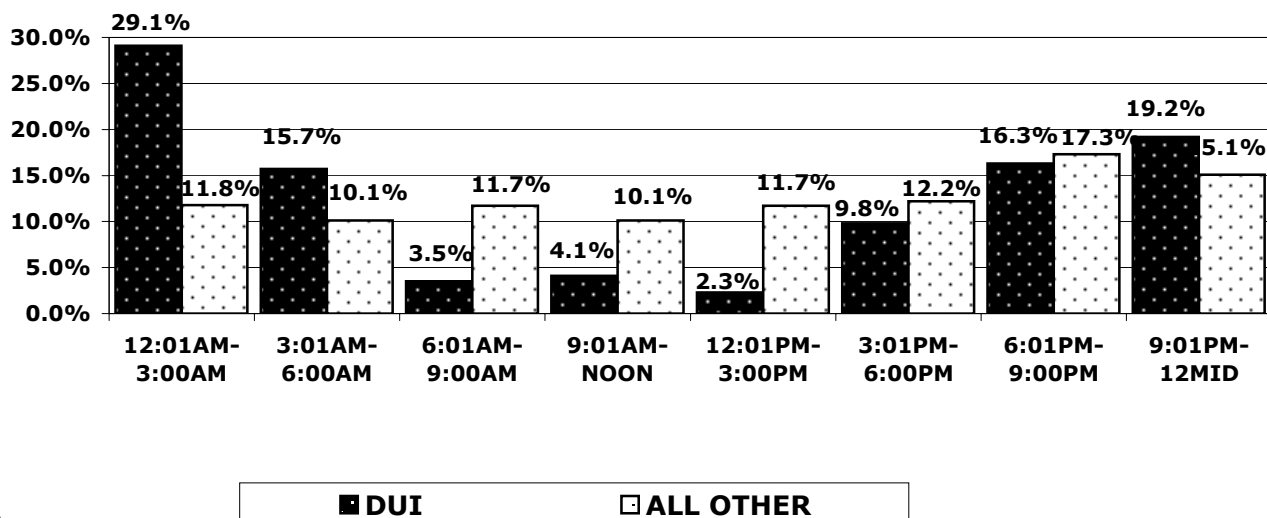
**DRIVERS INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WHERE THE
PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR WAS DRIVING UNDER
INFLUENCE (DUI) PER 1,000 LICENCED DRIVERS**



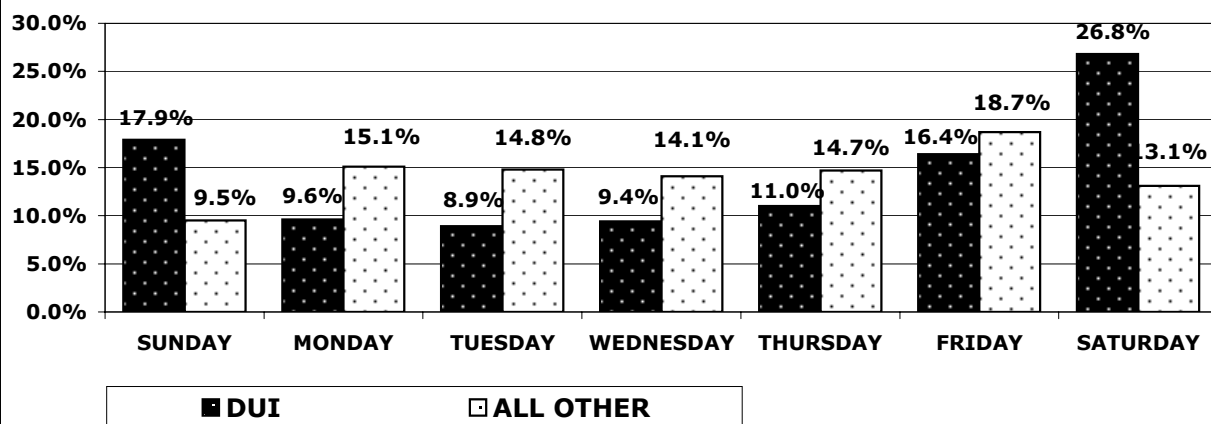
**NON-FATAL COLLISIONS WITH DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE (DUI)
AS THE PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR vs. ALL OTHER CAUSES
BY TIME OF THE DAY**



**FATAL COLLISIONS WITH DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE (DUI) AS
THE PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR vs. ALL OTHER CAUSES
BY TIME OF THE DAY**



**NON-FATAL COLLISIONS WITH DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE (DUI)
AS THE PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR vs. ALL OTHER CAUSES
BY DAY OF THE WEEK**



**FATAL COLLISIONS WITH DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE AS THE
PRIMARY CONTRIBUTING FACTOR vs. ALL OTHER CAUSES
BY DAY OF WEEK**

